

Plainfield Conservation Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: 6-21-2021

Members Present: Wally Cwynar, Mark Doyle, Sylvia Wielk, , Matt Yanuskiewicz

Alternate Member: Adrian Paulsen

Members Absent: Nick Anderson

Guest: Mary Ann Chinatti

Call to Order: W. Cwynar called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Additions and / or Corrections to the Agenda

None

Appoint Alternate Members

None

Approval of 5-17-21 meeting meeting minutes

A. Paulsen made a motion to approve the 5-17-2021 minutes, seconded by S. Wielk.

Moosup Valley Bike Trail

M. Ann Chinatti gave an overview of a new development that would implement a new section of the Quinebaug River trail. Starting in Wauregan at Route 205, and heading south to Cady Lane, this would be over mile of new trail, for walking and biking. This will be part of the East Coast Greenway. Even though this is located somewhat in the middle of the proposed trail, it is the best option, financially and land use availability. She stated that Congressman Joe Courtney asked if the Town of Plainfield had a shovel ready plan for Infrastructure and Transportation improvements. Linking the Moosup Valley Bike Trail to the Quinebaug River Trail has been on the table for years. Infrastructure and Transportation funding will pay for connecting the trails. \$230,000 is allocated for capital improvement.

W. Cwynar mentioned he was not able to get in touch with Mark Jewell of Vanasse, Hangen Brustlin (VHB) about any new developing plans for trail improvements. M. Chinatti stated that the project is still at the 60% engineering stage.

<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/financing/infra-grants/infrastructure-rebuilding-america>

Received For Record At Plainfield CT

On June 28, 2021 @ 3:57pm

Attest: Cynthia J. Brittan
Town Clerk Asst.

American Chestnut Foundation

W. Cwynar handed out the latest publication of CHESTNUT to our members. He stated that a trip to the chestnut grove is needed soon to evaluate the Mother tree and the Hybrid trees.

The Conservation Commission will be hosting a Walktober walk this year, "Chestnuts and Overlooks", Saturday October 2nd 10am -12pm at the Plainfield Forest Management Area, rain date October 3rd. Check Eventbrite online for registration.

<https://thelastgreenvalley.org/explore-the-last-green-valley/walktober/>

Open Space Land Survey

Tabled

Open Space Land Acquisitions

There have been new developments for acquiring the 139 acre DEEP protected parcel on Kate Downing Rd. W. Cwynar gave an outline and M.Chinatti elaborated.

1. Received favorable recommendation for the CGS 8-24 referral by Planning and Zoning on June 8, 2021.
M. Chinnati mentioned a town meeting would need to be held in order use the open space funding.
2. Board of Selectmen approved the plan for this open space purchase on June 14, 2021.
3. Board of finance approved funding for the project on June 16, 2021.
4. Botello/Riley parcel was recently surveyed. The Hall parcel doesn't need to be surveyed. Both lots are in the appraisal process. Contracts have been signed for both properties. Price is not public yet.
5. Board of selectman will schedule a town meeting for the purchase. Voting for the project will take place at the town meeting.

W. Cwynar presented some questions for consideration:

A name for the open space? A sign for the entrance and or parking lot? Trail blazing, who, how and at what expense will that be accomplished?

Who will be responsible for maintenance of the Open Space?

Will the Conservation Commission be noticeably involved and recognized for its longtime efforts to gain town approval for a major open space land acquisition?

Further discussion noted the Conservation Commission will be contributing input to the projects development.

Minimal construction will be executed on the open space acquisition, most impactful will be the parking lot on the Hall property.

A. Paulson inquired about funding for the parking area.

Property enhancements may be executed using Open Space funds.

W. Cwynar mentioned requesting the Plainfield PD utilize their drone to survey of the combined parcels, especially the 139 acre lot that has not been seen by any of the Commission members, and Town officials, since it has been land locked for many years. This would be a big help evaluation, and planning.

Matt Yanuskievich mentioned that existing power lines are going thru the 139 acres which could need some kind of consideration.

M. Chinatti mentioned an engineer would be needed to field delineate the wetlands.

Other Business

Land Bank Update

M. Chinatti is expecting more information about DECD Brownfield assessment grant by the end of the month.

https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Community-Development/03_Funding_Opportunities/Brownfields-Remediation/Brownfield-Municipal-Grant-Program

S. Wielk mentioned adding new business directional signs near the McDonald's (Lathrop Rd / Norwich Rd) intersection.

Citizen Participation: None

Meeting Adjourned: W.Cwynar made a motion to adjourn at 7:47 PM, seconded by S. Wielk

Next Meeting: Monday July 19th, 2021

Respectfully by: Walter Cwynar Chairman

Walter Cwynar 6-28-21

